

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2566
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
SUPPLY OF SAFE BLOOD
VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of patients who contacted AIDS from bad blood in Hospitals of Delhi and other States during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government have any plan to ensure that only tested and safe blood is supplied to the patients all over the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) : The percentage of AIDS patients who contacted the disease through blood transfusion has significantly come down from 8% in 1991 to 3% in 2001. Out of a total 55695 AIDS patients reported during the last three years, in 456 cases the disease was attributed to transfusion of blood and blood products. These cases got infected before mandatory HIV testing was in place.

(b) & (c) : It is mandatory under the provision of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to test each unit of blood, collected from voluntary donors for freedom from HIV 1 & 2 antibodies, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, Hepatitis C Antibody, Malaria and Syphilis before issue for transfusion. Also it is mandatory for all Blood Banks to obtain a licence from the Drugs Control Authorities, who periodically check the blood banks to ensure compliance of the D & C Rules, apart from ensuing, before issue of licence, that the blood banks have the infrastructure to carry all the mandatory tests for safe blood.